

AN ACT

RELATING TO NUISANCE PROPERTIES BY REQUIRING THE INDEXING OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL CITATIONS AND PETITIONS AFFECTING REAL PROPERTY AND REQUIRING THE COUNTY TREASURER TO WITHHOLD CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM TAX SALE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 364.22, subsection 4, Code Supplement 2009, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. *h.* The legal description of the affected real property, if applicable.

Sec. 2. Section 364.22, Code Supplement 2009, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. *a.* Upon receiving a citation under subsection 4 that affects real property and that charges a violation relating to the condition of the property, including a building code violation, a local housing regulation violation, a housing code violation, or a public health or safety violation, the clerk of the district court shall index the citation pursuant to section 617.10, if the legal description of the affected property is included in or attached to the citation.

b. After filing the citation with the clerk of the district court, the city shall also file the citation in the office of the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall include a notation of the pendency of the action in the county system, as defined in section 445.1, until the judgment of the court is satisfied or until the action is dismissed. Pursuant to section 446.7, an affected property that is subject to a pending action shall not be offered for sale by the county treasurer at tax sale.

Sec. 3. Section 446.7, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. Annually, on the third Monday in June the county treasurer shall offer at public sale all parcels on which taxes are delinquent. The treasurer shall not, however, offer for sale any parcel that is subject to a pending action as the result of a municipal infraction citation under section 364.22, a petition filed under chapter 657, or a petition filed under chapter 657A, if such municipal infraction citation or petition is indexed under section 617.10 and noted in the county system as defined in section 445.1. The sale shall be made for the total amount of taxes, interest, fees, and costs due. If for good cause the treasurer cannot hold the annual tax sale on the third Monday of June, the treasurer may designate a different date in June for the sale.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **448.13 Cancellation of tax sale and certificate of purchase — refund of purchase money.**

If the county treasurer receives a verified statement from a city stating that a parcel sold at tax sale contains a building which is abandoned, as those terms are defined in section 657A.1, prior to redemption of the parcel under chapter 447 or the issuance of a tax deed for the parcel, and the verified statement is accompanied by a petition filed by the city under section 657A.10A for title to the parcel, the county treasurer shall make an entry in the county system canceling the sale of the parcel and shall refund the purchase money to the tax sale certificate holder.

Sec. 5. Section 602.8102, subsection 94, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

94. File and index petitions and municipal infraction citations affecting real estate as provided in [sections 617.10 through 617.15](#).

Sec. 6. Section 617.10, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. When a petition or municipal infraction citation affecting real estate is filed, the clerk of the district court where the petition or municipal infraction citation is filed shall index the petition or municipal infraction citation in an index book under the tract number which describes the property, entering in each instance the case number as a guide to the record of court proceedings which affect the real estate. If the petition or municipal infraction citation is amended to include other parties or other lands, the amended petition or

municipal infraction citation shall be similarly indexed. When a final result is determined in the case, the result shall be indicated in the index book wherever indexed.

Sec. 7. Section 617.12, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

617.12 Exceptions.

If the real property affected ~~be~~ is situated in the county where the petition or municipal infraction citation is filed it shall be unnecessary to show in said index lands not situated in said county.

Sec. 8. Section 657.1, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. Whatever is injurious to health, indecent, or unreasonably offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as essentially to interfere unreasonably with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property, is a nuisance, and a civil action by ordinary proceedings may be brought to enjoin and abate the nuisance and to recover damages sustained on account of the nuisance. A petition filed under this subsection shall include the legal description of the real property upon which the nuisance is located unless the nuisance is not situated on or confined to a parcel of real property or is portable or capable of being removed from the real property.

Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **657.2A Indexing of petition.**

1. When a petition affecting real property is filed by a governmental entity under this chapter, the clerk of the district court shall index the petition pursuant to section 617.10, if the legal description of the affected property is included in or attached to the petition.

2. After filing the petition with the clerk of the district court, the governmental entity shall also file the petition in the office of the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall include a notation of the pendency of the action in the county system, as defined in section 445.1, until the judgment of the court is satisfied or until the action is dismissed. Pursuant to section 446.7, an affected property that is subject to a pending action shall not be offered for sale by the county treasurer at tax sale.

Sec. 10. Section 657A.2, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

1. A petition for abatement under this chapter may be filed in the district court of the county in which the property is

located, by the city in which the property is located, by the county if the property is located outside the limits of a city, by a neighboring landowner, or by a duly organized nonprofit corporation which has as one of its goals the improvement of housing conditions in the county or city in which the property in question is located. A petition for abatement filed under this chapter shall include the legal description of the real property upon which the nuisance or dangerous or unsafe condition is located unless the nuisance or dangerous or unsafe condition is not situated on or confined to a parcel of real property or is portable or capable of being removed from the real property. Service on the owner shall be by personal service or by certified mail, or if service cannot be made by either method, by posting the notice in a conspicuous place on the building and by publication.

Sec. 11. Section 657A.10A, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

In lieu of the procedures in sections 657A.2 through 657A.10, a city in which an abandoned building is located may petition the court to enter judgment awarding title to the abandoned property to the city. A petition filed under this section shall include the legal description of the abandoned property. If more than one abandoned building is located on a parcel of real estate, the city may combine the actions into one petition. The owner of the building and grounds, mortgagees of record, lienholders of record, or other known persons who hold an interest in the property shall be named as respondents on the petition.

Sec. 12. Section 657A.10A, Code 2009, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 6. If a city files a petition under subsection 1, naming the holder of a tax sale certificate of purchase for the property as a respondent, the city shall also file the petition, along with a verified statement declaring that the property identified in the petition contains an abandoned building, with the county treasurer. Upon receiving the petition and verified statement, the county treasurer shall make an entry in the county system canceling the sale of the property and shall refund the purchase money to the tax sale certificate holder.

Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. **657A.12 Indexing of petition.**

1. When a petition affecting real property is filed by a governmental entity under this chapter, the clerk of the

district court shall index the petition pursuant to section 617.10, if the legal description of the affected property is included in or attached to the petition.

2. After filing the petition with the clerk of the district court, the governmental entity shall also file the petition in the office of the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall include a notation of the pendency of the action in the county system, as defined in section 445.1, until the judgment of the court is satisfied or until the action is dismissed. Pursuant to section 446.7, an affected property that is subject to a pending action shall not be offered for sale by the county treasurer at tax sale.

JOHN P. KIBBIE
President of the Senate

PATRICK J. MURPHY
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 434, Eighty-third General Assembly.

MICHAEL E. MARSHALL
Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____, 2010

CHESTER J. CULVER
Governor